(c) and (d) The distribution of funds for maintenance of National Highways including Ahmedabad-Bombay sec 'ton of National Highway No 8 is made by the States out of the allocations indicated above keeping in view the actual require ments .

Steps to improve the functioning of the Calcutta port

854. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state:

(in) whether the navigational conditions between Calcutta Port and Haldia Port are deteriorating fast;

(b) if so, what specific steps have go far been taken to improve the navigational conditions between Calcutta and Haldia; and

(c) what other steps have so far been taken to improve the general functioning of the Calcutta Port to make it compe» tirve with other Ports like Bombay and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGD1SH TYTLER): (a) and (b) River Training Works like guide-wall, Groynes etc. have been executed and regular maintenance dredging is being undertaken to improve the navigational conditions between Calcutta and Haldia.

(c) A number of schemes for the re-placement of old assets like floating crafts handling equipments etc. and for moder-nisation and augmentation of existing facilities have been included in the 8th Plan to improve the general functioning of the Calcutta Port.

Extra payment made by Shipping Cor-poration of India

855. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-SHAM: Will the Minister *at* SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(.a) whether Government's attention bag been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 14th June, 1993 captioned "Shipping Corporation of India to pay Dollar 20 million more than market rates for four tanker;

(b) whether any delegation of officials visited South Korea to talk to the concerned shipyards;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Minister also met the Shipyard officials;

(J; if so, what are the details of dis-eusstons;

(e) whether an enquiry will be or dered into this huge foreign exchange loss of Shipping Corporation of India; and

(f) whethre it will be possible to nego tiate a downward revision of the prices of there ships,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDTSH TYTLER): (a) Y;s. Sir

(b) No. Sir. However, Minuter sof State for Transport alongwith some officials visited South Korea for other par-poses which were not connected with the construction of four tankers.

tc) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Minister met shipyard ^personnel in connection with the proposed collaboration arrangement with the Indian Shipyards.

(e) No, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India placing orders for the construction of four tankers at the rate of US $ 65.53 Million per vessel was quite in order. Government has, therefore, not considered it necessary to hold any enquiry in the matter,

(f) No, Sir.

Step to reduce road accidents fa Delhi

856. SHRI MAHENPER PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the spurt to road accidents in the capital since the